



Florham Park Borough Council
October 7, 2021
Work Session Minutes

Mayor Taylor called the Work Session to order at 6:33 pm, and asked the Deputy Clerk for a roll call:

Governing Body Member	Present	Absent
Mayor Taylor	x	
Council President Santoro	x	
Councilman Germershausen	x	
Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane	x	
Councilman Carpenter	x	
Councilman Malone	x	
Councilman Zuckerman	x	

Additional Borough officials in attendance were: Borough Administrator William Huyler, Borough Attorney Joseph Bell, and Deputy Clerk Maryann Lang.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The statutory requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, were met.

Council Portfolio Updates:

Council President Santoro provided the following report:

Board of Health:

The Board of Health had their first in person meeting on September 8, 2021. Health Officer, Thomas Cantisano, was in attendance. Several residents were present with concerns regarding some of the policies/mandates regarding COVID 19. They were advised that the Health Department does not make the policies, the State does. The local authority cannot supersede the State. The next Board of Health meeting will be on November 10, 2021.

Ms. Santoro stated that she has spoken to Mr. Cantisano regarding the disease that is affecting deer in the area. It is called Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), and will be with us until the first frost. It is not a risk to humans.

Library:

The library held a “new to town” event in September, and had approximately forty new residents attend as well as twelve community organizations. Library Director, Nancy Shah, would like to hold this event again next year. The next virtual meeting of the Library Board is on October 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Water Utility:

Well rehabilitation and transmission projects -

Contractors are continuing with shop drawing submittals. Shop drawing review for transmission main project is complete. Well cleaning and testing were performed over the past week. The structure of the well casing, and cage, are in good condition. The output of the well is consistent with the design flowrate needed. The generator pad, and some electrical work, have been performed inside the well house. The chemical room walls have been partially constructed. The transmission line saw activity with the contractor tying into the main last week. The installation of approximately fifty feet of line, from the ASCO driveway to the Jets’ site, has been completed. The remainder of the construction is scheduled for the week of October 18, 2021, and is expected to take two weeks.

Water meter replacement project -

National Metering Services, responsible for installing the permanent residential meters, have replaced approximately sixty eight percent of the 1,442 meters. Approximately one hundred fifty residents have not contacted National Metering Services for meter replacement. Four notification letters from National Metering Services, and one letter from the Borough, have been sent. Water personnel will leave literature and door placards at the next quarterly manual water reads. The Borough will need to decide on enforcement actions.

Municipal Pool -

Still obtaining prices for permanent repair around balance tank.

Sewer Utility:

Colliers Engineers working on the study for the generator upgrades and the new clarifier design. Preliminary generator report has been issued, and is under review.

Carrigan Lane/Burnet Road sewer and sewer pump station project -

Treatment works permit has been submitted to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Coordination with the utilities has begun to provide gas and electric service to the proposed pump station.

Beechwood/Elmwood cured-in-place lining project -

Sewer staff completed video updates within the development. Proposals have been received from two design consultants to complete the plans and specifications for this sewer pipe lining project, which is scheduled for next Spring.

Councilman Germershausen provided the following report:

There was nothing to report for the Gazebo committee or the Morris County Board of Commissioners.

Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane provided the following report:

Planning and Zoning:

The September 27, 2021 Planning Board meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2021. The October 6, 2021 Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2021.

Senior Citizens:

There was good attendance at the senior picnic. A group of seniors, from the new Del Webb community, were in attendance.

Mayor Taylor asked if the seniors are supposed to follow the Borough building mask mandate in the senior center. Ms. Cefolo-Pane responded in the affirmative. Mayor Taylor stated that they are apparently not abiding by it. Mr. Huyler stated he would check into the matter.

AARP:

The next meeting will be held virtually, over Zoom, on October 19, 2021. The National AARP Organization has mandated that all of their Chapters hold the remainder of meetings for the year virtually.

Historic Preservation Committee:

Recently submitted reopening plan to Bill Huyler, which was approved.

Councilman Carpenter provided the following report:

Department of Public Works:

School speed zone beacon for Brooklake Road is expected mid October.

Heavy Item pick up at the end of September involved four hundred and fifty homes. Curbside leaf pick up will begin. Fall decorations were placed at the Municipal Complex. Plow truck and salters are in for service, in anticipation of upcoming snow season.

Slab for new recycler has been poured.

DPW contract negotiations are upcoming.

Fire Department:

Recruitment post cards to go out next week.

Police Department:

Three hundred eighty two applications were received for the new patrol position. The physical fitness test will be on October 24, 2021. It is anticipated that there will be five vacancies in the Police Department. Replacements for those positions will be pulled from this applicant pool.

Florham Park Police Officers were the first in Morris County to complete the eighteen hour state mandated de-escalation training.

PBA contract negotiations will begin.

Engineering:

Columbia/Park Street intersection improvement project -
Awaiting delivery of traffic signal components.

Briarwood Road & intersection improvements -
Contractor has completed sidewalk, curbing, and driveway repairs from the beginning of the project to the Ridgedale intersection. Sidewalk along Cathedral was incorporated into the project and completed. Contractor installing traffic signal junction boxes and foundations this week. Curbing and sidewalk at intersection have not been scheduled yet, but will start soon. Goal is to have all concrete and paving completed prior to winter. Construction will be stopped until delivery of the traffic signal components. NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) grant funding is involved (\$350,000).

Elm Street Road and drainage improvement project -
Design consultant has completed survey work and is working on a preliminary design of the project. A future public meeting will be held, likely during the end of this year or beginning of next year. Project is scheduled to go out to bid next Spring. NJDOT grant funding is involved (\$411,700).

Drainage Study at Farr Lane & Murphy Circle -
GPI Consultants have surveyed the properties and are working on formalizing stormwater easements. The hydraulics study is near completion.

Councilman Malone provided the following report:**Recreation:**

A revised code of conduct for coaches will be brought to the Recreation Committee, for review at their next meeting. The code of conduct addresses equal playing time for fifth grade and under. This has been verbally communicated to coaches by John Timmons. In the past, playing time was left up to coaches. However, there is renewed interest by parents that maybe it should be incorporated into a code of conduct.

Fall programs are underway. Recreation Director, John Timmons, commented that there is a new line dancing program, and participants are really enjoying it.

The turf field logo has gone to the Recreation Committee for approval. A proposal will be brought back to the Council.

Finance:

The budget process is currently underway.

Moody's reaffirmed the AAA credit rating for the Borough, which is the highest rating. It cited an exceptional credit position far exceeding US cities median of AA3. Notable credit factors included: healthy financial position, strong wealth and income profile, solid tax base, extremely small debt burden and a somewhat inflated pension liability.

Mr. Malone stated that residents have mentioned a possible review of water rates. Water rates were addressed to have the Utility break even. The rates currently in place are based on the old meters, which may have been inaccurate. Maybe after a few billing cycles, this should be reviewed. Mayor Taylor stated we should work on water conservation among residents. Mr. Huyler stated that he was aware of only a few cases of new meters not being accurate. Most of the increases are nominal. It was agreed to review again after a billing cycle or two.

Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane asked if the replaced meters had different stages of technology. Borough Engineer, Mr. Sgaramella, responded that most of the meters were beyond their service life of fifteen-twenty years. The transfer of old to new meters took place over the summer. Residents received an expanded four-five month billing, instead of three months. Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane asked if we are finished replacing the meters. Mr. Sgaramella responded that we are not.

Mr. Carpenter commented that the rates were based on sound science – average amount of water an average family should consume. It was conservation driven.

Mayor Taylor commented that water will become scarcer. It is good that we will have a new well coming online. We need to do a better job as a Council in helping residents to stop the usage that is going on. Water is a commodity.

Councilman Malone stated that there is a renewed interest in a sidewalk for Crescent Road, for children walking to school. Pedestrians and residents are asking what may be done, including possibly widening the jug handle side of road to create a soft shoulder.

Councilman Zuckerman provided the following report:

Board of Education:

Meeting on September 27, 2021. Enrollment is down by sixteen. The Superintendent gave an update on building referendum. Several policies and regulations were approved.

Environmental Commission:

Reviewed information provided by Princeton Hydro for Spring Garden Lake.

The Commission voted to go forward with open space and recreation update in 2022. Working on the 2022 budget.

Pool:

Working on operating budget for 2022, and looking at making updates for pool house.

Payment of Vouchers:

Councilman Malone made a motion to approve the current bills list in the amount of \$3,872,711.64. The motion was seconded by Councilman Germershausen.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Comments
Santoro	x				
Germershausen	x				
Cefolo-Pane	x				
Carpenter	x				
Malone	x				
Zuckerman	x				
Total	6				

Privilege of the Floor:

Mr. Taylor opened the meeting to the public at 6:56 pm. The following members of the public wished to be heard:

John Winters, 32 Brooklake Road:

As to water usage among residents, what can we do to conserve and to enforce? People won't do it unless there is a little pressure on them. Mayor Taylor responded that there is in Ordinance in place.

Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane asked if there is still the message regarding odd/even watering days. Mayor Taylor stated that it is still on the local television channel. Mr. Huyler responded that it is still on the Borough's website, but not on the electronic sign outside of Borough Hall.

There was discussion about residents, and commercial properties, running sprinklers during rainstorms, or immediately afterwards. Water usage needs to be addressed.

The meeting was closed to the public at 6:58 pm.

Adjournment:

On a motion made by Councilman Carpenter, and seconded by Councilman Germershausen, the work session was adjourned by a unanimous vote at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann C. Lang, RMC
Deputy Clerk
October 7, 2021